

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed August 25, 2004, has been carefully considered.

Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 45-82 are pending in the present application. The Examiner is thanked for the kind allowance of claims 45-77. Claims 78-82 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 78-82 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Kensey et al. (U.S. Patent 5,676,689). Claims 78-80 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Barnwell (5,462,194). Claims 78 and 81 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Morris (4,591,094). Claims 78-80 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Paczonay (5,601,207). Claims 78 and 81 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Yat Chuen Yuen (2,997,195).

Claims 78-82 have been cancelled. Thus, it is respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

Request for Allowance

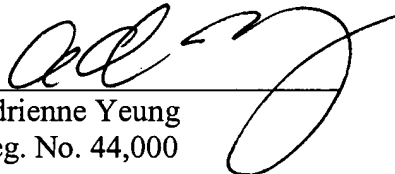
It is believed that this Response places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this application is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: October 26, 2004


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